

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 589

By Byrd

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend the Collinwood American Legion Post 254 Funeral Honors Team.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of the members of this General Assembly to recognize those individuals whose important contributions to our military veterans honor their service and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, one such group of individuals is the Collinwood American Legion Post 254 Funeral Honors Team, an august body that is wholly devoted to duly honoring those brave men and women who have made sacrifices for the freedoms and ideals we hold dear; and

WHEREAS, the Collinwood American Legion Honors Team was formed in October 2012 and performed its first funeral honors ceremony on November 19, 2012; to date, the team has performed 154 ceremonies for veterans in Wayne County, as well as a few in the surrounding counties of Lawrence and Hardin in Tennessee and Lauderdale in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the funeral detail services provided by the Funeral Honors Team are available to all honorably discharged veterans and typically include two service members from the branch of the service to which the veteran belonged, provided by the Military Department; the Honors Team provides the firing detail for the "three round volley" and a ceremonial bugler to play "Taps" and also provides for the folding and presentation of the flag to the next of kin when the military is not present or when requested by the family; and

WHEREAS, in addition to funeral honors ceremonies, the Honors Team provides Color Guards for local activities, including parades, posting of the colors at local school football games, flag folding ceremonies at local high schools, and ceremonies associated with Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Veterans Day; and

WHEREAS, the Honors Team has also performed a total of twenty-eight bridge dedication ceremonies in Wayne County, with two more scheduled for the fall of this year; Assistant Team Leader Randy Chambers is integral to the process of bridge dedication, researching each fallen service member, identifying a bridge near the area where the veteran lived before going to war, and requesting approval through the Wayne County Commission and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the venerable members of the Honors Team at Collinwood American Legion Post 254 are Team Leader Harold "Tater" Thompson, Assistant Team Leader Randy Chambers, David Brison, David Holt, Eddie Thompson, Travis Pigg, Billie Thrasher, Kenneth Martin, Larry Miller, Danny Farris, Dennis Creecy, Larry K. Wright, Dale Inman, Thomas Butler, Steve Weismann, Jerry Berry, Alvin Creecy, Walter Butler, Robert Haddock, Rusty Phillips, Eddie Ross, and Phillip Ayers; and

WHEREAS, also counted among the members is the late Grady Staggs, who passed away on July 26, 2017; part of the team from the beginning, he was one of the most dependable and dedicated members of the Honors Team and is dearly missed; and

WHEREAS, for nearly seven years, the Funeral Honors Team of the Collinwood American Legion Post 254 has shown great respect for our military heroes, and it is most fitting that the team be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and commend the individuals of the Collinwood American Legion Post 254 Funeral Honors Team for their dedicated service to our veterans, extending to them our most sincere gratitude.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.